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CANARY ISLANDS.

*The Canary Islands as a resort for tuberculous cases.*TENERIFFE, CANARY ISLANDS, *October 23, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a report on the treatment of tuberculosis, the benefits derived, and the accommodations that can be had in the Canary Islands for the unfortunates suffering from this disease.

During my visit on leave of absence to the United States last August, Walter Wyman, esq., Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, requested me to write a report on the above-mentioned facts.

I therefore forward same in duplicate for your approval and disposal.

Respectfully,

SOLOMON BERLINER,

United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Canary Islands in regard to tuberculosis.

[Inclosure.]

TENERIFFE, CANARY ISLANDS, *October 23, 1901.*

The Canary Islands, formerly known as the Fortunate Islands, are situated between 27° 4' and 29° 3' N. and 13° 3' and 18° 2' W. Seven are inhabited. They are as follows: Teneriffe, Grand Canary, La Palma, Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, Hierro, and Gomera. But as this report refers largely to the accommodations offered to visitors, the first-named two need only to be considered, as the latter five are not provided with hotels and sanatoriums.

In consequence of their geographical position, the Canaries form almost an ideal home for those who do not enjoy good health in the northern countries with their trying climatic conditions.

For invalids, who have already been warned by unmistakable symptoms of disease, that their constitutions need watchful care and resuscitation, but who rightly hope that they may again become robust, the islands are stepping stones on the way to health, where they may find a complete cure, or at any rate, pass a season or two for reinvigoration prior to visiting other countries more bracing, but with surroundings not so well adapted for invalids.

Sufferers on learning that they must leave home and friends in search of a climate in which the conditions are more suited to their state of health are beset by many difficulties, and the question, Where shall I go? is far more easily asked than answered. But to patients suffering from affected lungs, it must be admitted that for dryness and equability of temperature, the Canary Islands offer advantages hardly possible to surpass and never excelled.

The following is the mean winter temperature of the principal towns of the islands: Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, October to May, 66.2; Orotava, Teneriffe, 65; Las Palmas, Grand Canary, 65.3.

The Canaries are within easy reach of all parts of the world, as they are used by many of the principal European lines of steamers as ports of call. The following may be mentioned: England, London, Union Castle M. S. Company; Shaw, Savill, and Albion Company; New Zealand Steamship Company; Geo. Thompson & Co.; J. T. Rennie Son & Co. Liverpool, Forward Bros. & Co.; Elder, Dempster & Co. France, Marseilles, Transports Maritime Company. Havre, Chargeurs Reunis.

Germany, Hamburg, North German Lloyd; Hamburg South American Steamship Company; Woermann Linie Mbh.

In addition to climate and easy means of access, good hotel accommodation is a necessity, and as will be seen from the following remarks this is abundantly provided. In Teneriffe, the largest island of the group and the seat of Government of the islands, the following are the towns most frequented by visitors: Santa Cruz, Laguna, Tacaronte, Orotava, and Guimar. The first named town is the capital of the islands and the landing place for Teneriffe.

Hotels.—Gamacho's, capable of holding some 40 guests, is centrally situated, but being completely surrounded by houses and without a garden, is not suited for invalids. Victoria, under Spanish management, but owing to its position, is open to the same objection as the former. Pino de Oro is a hotel delightfully situated outside the town, some twenty minutes' walk from the landing stage; accommodation is provided for about 40; is surrounded by a large garden, in which is rest, and plenty of recreation can be found by those whose state of health does not permit them to indulge in long walks. Salamanca is a boarding house similarly situated to the hotel just mentioned; is managed by the widow of an English physician, and suits those who object to hotel life.

Laguna differs from Santa Cruz in that whilst the latter is on the sea level, the former is situated 1,850 feet above, the 2 towns being connected by the main road which crosses the island. The winter climate is too damp and cold for lung patients, but in the spring is delightfully bracing and specially suitable for those who have passed the winter in the lower levels. There are 2 good hotels, the Aguerre and the Teneriffe, the former under Swiss management, capable of accommodating some 50 guests, and the latter, under Spanish management, with room for about 20. An electric tramway between Santa Cruz and Laguna has recently been opened.

Tacoronte is a small village, about 7 miles from Laguna, and one of the best excursion centers in the island. The air is drier, but not so keen as at Laguna.

The hotel (Tacoronte Hotel), is built just off the road and is a fine construction with a magnificent view and with room for about 30. It is a very suitable place for those desiring to spend the summer in the island. A few miles past Tacoronte the main road turns to the left and the beautiful valley of Orotava is seen from Humboldts Corner, so called because it was near here that the famous traveler threw himself on the ground and saluted the sight as the finest in the world. Orotava is about 14 miles from Tacoronte and is the favorite resort in the island for visitors. Part of its popularity is undoubtedly due to the excellence of the hotel accommodation. The Grand Hotel is the finest in the island; it accommodates some 250 guests, is beautifully situated 350 feet above the sea level, and commands splendid views of the Atlantic from one side, and of the valley of Orotava and the famous peak on the other. The other hotels are the Martiane and the Marquesa, both popular and comfortable, but neither so healthfully situated as the Grand. Guimar is situated towards the south of the island; is 985 feet above sea level. The climate is sunny, dry, and gently stimulating; it is considered by many competent to judge, to enjoy the best climate in the islands, and it has proved of great service to many sufferers from pulmonary affections. Special attention should be drawn to this spot, as it is the place that has been chosen by an English physician, Dr. Stanford Harris, for the construction of a hospital

devoted to the treatment of tuberculosis on the pure air system. Dr. Harris resided in the Canary Islands for 16 years and as a result of his experience, selected Guimar as being in every respect the most suitable for the institution referred to. The hospital stands 1,200 feet above the sea level and commands an extensive view of mountains and sea. For further particulars see accompanying inclosure No. 1.

With further reference to Guimar, a distinguished physician, who after acquiring great experience in the royal and city of London hospital for diseases of the chest, and residing nearly two years in the different stations of Teneriffe, writes as follows:

"I consider that the valley of Guimar, on the southeast side of the island, has undoubtedly the best climate. I believe that it has several more hours sunshine; that it is much drier and has less rain than any other resort; besides which it has the very great advantage of being entirely sheltered from the northerly winds by a range of mountains 6,000 feet high. Guimar faces ESE., the quarter from which spring the driest Canarian winds. The water which supplies the town is brought from the Ravine de la Aguas, and is irreproachable. The Marquesas house (el Buen Retiro), where accommodation has now been provided for a small number of English visitors, is prettily situated at an elevation of 1,200 feet above the sea. It has a very lovely shady garden, in which mangoes, custard apples, oranges, pomegranates, and apples flourish as they do nowhere on the northern side. Guimar is undoubtedly the fruit garden of Teneriffe, and has a climate that for the treatment of chest disease is unique. I feel sure that in the great yearly rush of health seekers to the Canary Isles the valley of Guimar will in the near future become one of the most favored resorts." (A. J. Wharry, M. D., M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P.)

Another writer states, "For the largest number of consumptive patients the climate of Guimar, in the southeast of Teneriffe, is incomparably the best in the Canary Islands. Indeed, it is perhaps without a rival in the world. Compared with Port Orotava, Guimar has a drier atmosphere and soil, far more sunshine, no cloud parasol, an equally genial temperature, and owing to its altitude (at the Buen Retiro) of 1,200 feet above the level of the sea, a lighter and more bracing air. It possesses, in fact, the ideal climate after which most invalids at Port Orotava hanker, without knowing that it exists almost in their very neighborhood. The number of rainy days and the rainfall at Guimar is very much less than at Port Orotava. Perhaps, on an average, there are not a couple of days in the whole year on which the most delicate invalid can not take outdoor exercise. The rain, when there is any, falls, as a rule, in short, sharp, refreshing showers, and ten minutes after it ceases not a trace of moisture remains. Its atmosphere, no doubt, is not quite as invigorating as that of Laguna; but it never has that steamy, debilitating effect so well known in many warm, moist regions. I must say that in my varied and many wanderings I have nowhere come across such a perfect winter climate." (Joseph Percival.)

Grand Canary is situated about 40 miles to the east of Teneriffe. From a commercial point of view it is much in advance of Teneriffe, and the maritime movement of the port is considerably greater; it is also more frequented by tourists and holiday seekers on account of splendid advantages offered as regards cheap trips, but those in search of health are more often recommended to Teneriffe.

Las Palmas is the capital of the island, and is situated about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the port. On the road between the port and the city 2 very fine hotels have been erected. The Santa Catalina Hotel, built by an

English company, stands in its own grounds with a fine sea view. It accommodates about 150. The Metropole hotel, also newly built, is well situated on the seashore with gardens and a good glazed patio; has room for 150. Both these hotels offer visitors every modern luxury and convenience. It should be stated, however, that they are surrounded by sand hills, and the fine dust from these is found by those with lung and throat troubles to act as an irritant.

In Las Palmas itself, the favorite stopping place is Quiney's Hotel, old established, with good garden, and facing an open square. About 6 miles from Las Palmas, on the central main road of the island, is the district known as Monte; visitors may here choose between 2 very comfortable hotels about 1 mile distant from one another—Quiney's Bella Vista 1,320 feet, and the Santa Brigida 1,360 feet, newly erected. Both are well appointed and growing in popularity every season.

Monte is not only the chief summer resort of the residents in Grand Canary, but is regarded by competent authorities as a very favorable position for those suffering from pulmonary and other complaints. As a possible alternative to Las Palmas, the bracing air and pure atmosphere of this semimountainous resort is of great advantage to invalids.

For the purposes of a short report, the writer does not think mention need be made of other places; visitors can, of course, choose the spots most likely to suit them.

After a residence of several years in the islands, however, he thinks medical men should be warned from sending invalids in an advanced stage of illness to the islands alone; so many distressing cases have occurred of deaths taking place with no friend near the sufferer.

Invalids coming to the islands should not imagine the change of climate does everything, and that they can take liberties with their strength which they would never dream of in their own country. They may, however, be encouraged by the fact that numbers of apparently hopeless cases have been completely cured, but only by proper precaution and careful attention to the advice given by local medical men who have made the climate and its effects their life study.

SOLOMON BERLINER,
United States Consul.

CHINA.

Reports from Hongkong.

HONGKONG, CHINA, *October 7, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith an abstract of the bills of health issued at this port for the week ended October 5, 1901. I also transmit under same cover a circular issued by Dr. F. W. Clark, medical officer of health, giving the method of dealing with outbreaks of bubonic plague in this colony.

Ten vessels were inspected during the week; 567 individuals were bathed at the disinfecting station, and 751 bundles of clothing and bedding were disinfected by steam.

There were 14 rejections during the week because of fever.

Three cases of plague and 2 deaths were reported during the week, thus making a total of 1,648 cases and 1,575 deaths thus far this year.

In my report for the week ended August 24, 1901, the plague returns are given at 1,720 cases and 1,619 deaths, whereas the correct figures for the year up to and including August 24 were 1,617 cases and 1,546 deaths. The error was due to misunderstanding a correction in the